



Devolution & Working Between the Tiers

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City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk

Bradford's Population: Key Facts

526,400

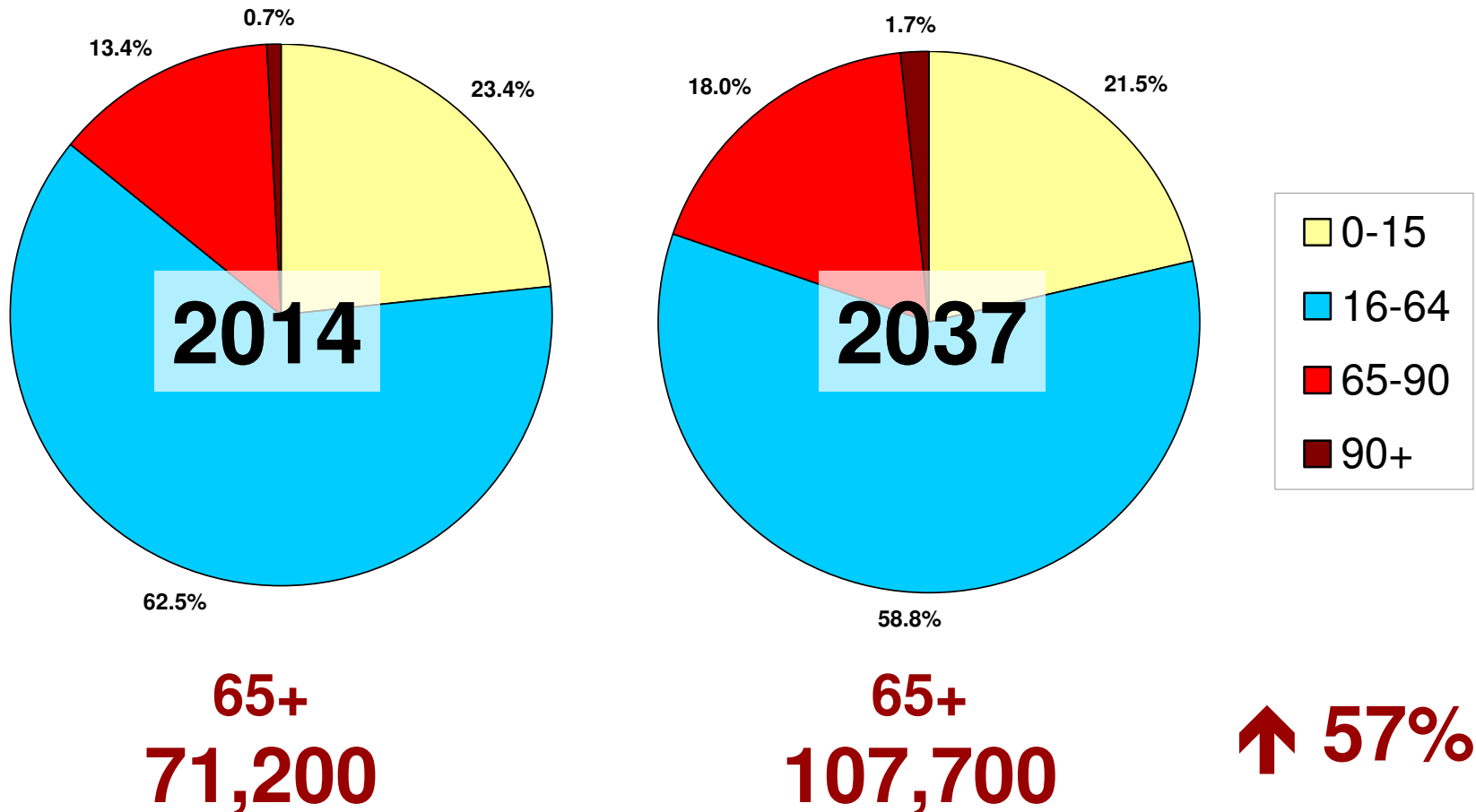
4th biggest population in England outside London
(behind Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield)

3rd highest number of 0-15 year olds in England - 123,800
(behind Birmingham and Leeds)

Youngest English city outside London
23.5% of our population is under 16

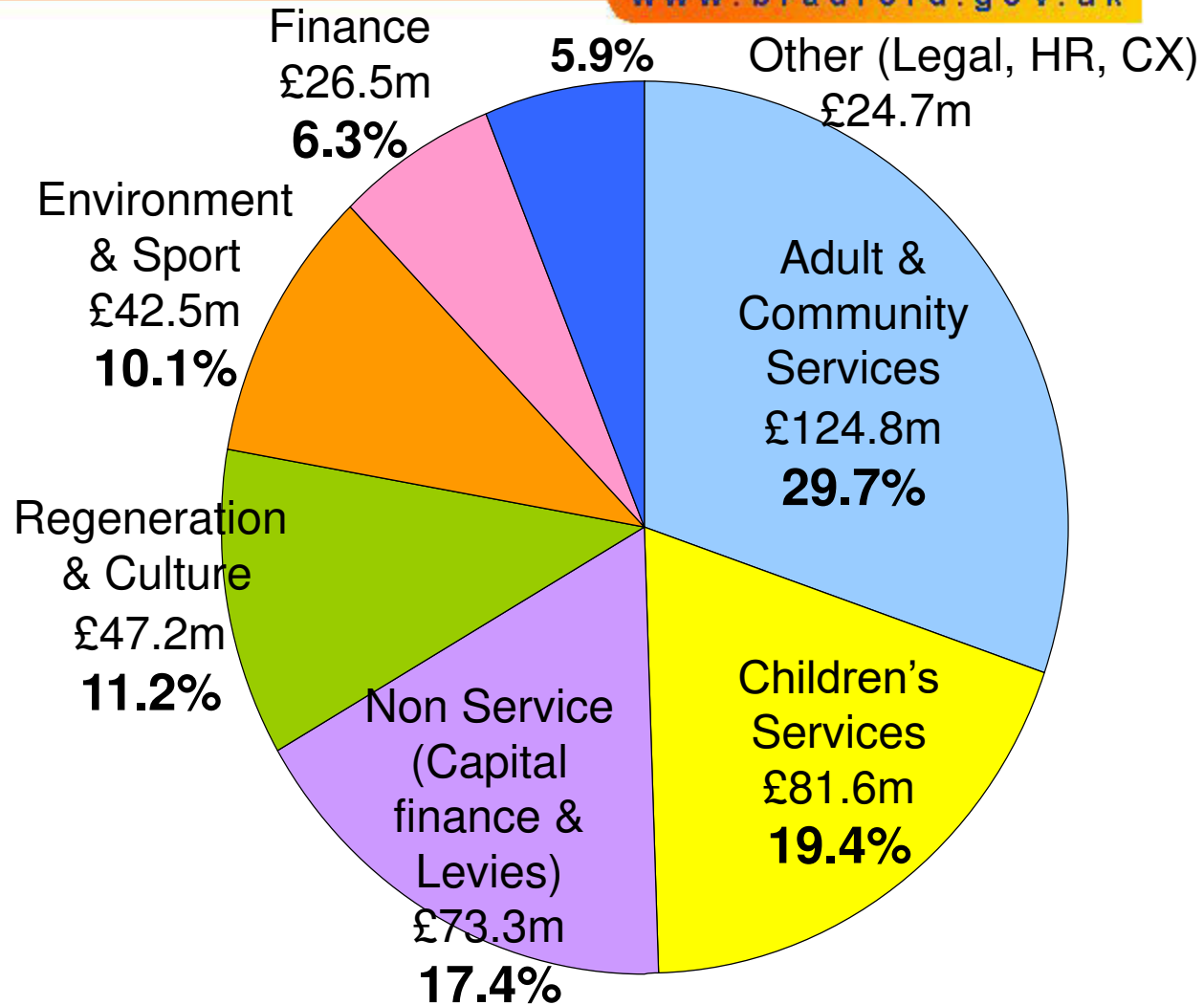
Future Population Trends

Older people will form a larger proportion of the total population



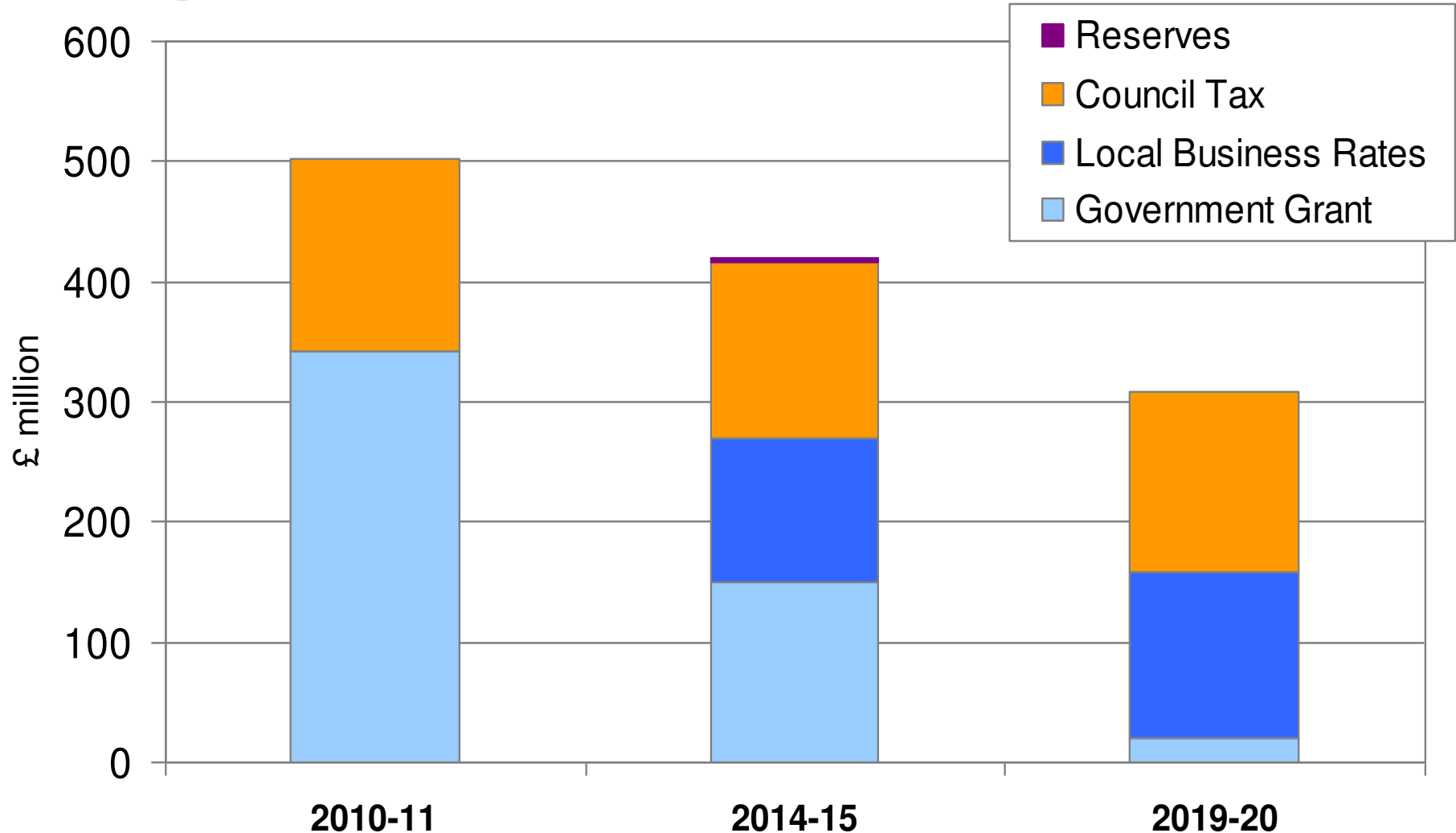
- Nearly half the net budget is spent on Adults and Children's Services
- Another 17% goes on fixed costs like capital debt repayment and levies – these are hard to reduce in the short-term

Where the money goes



Current Spending
(£million and % of net budget)

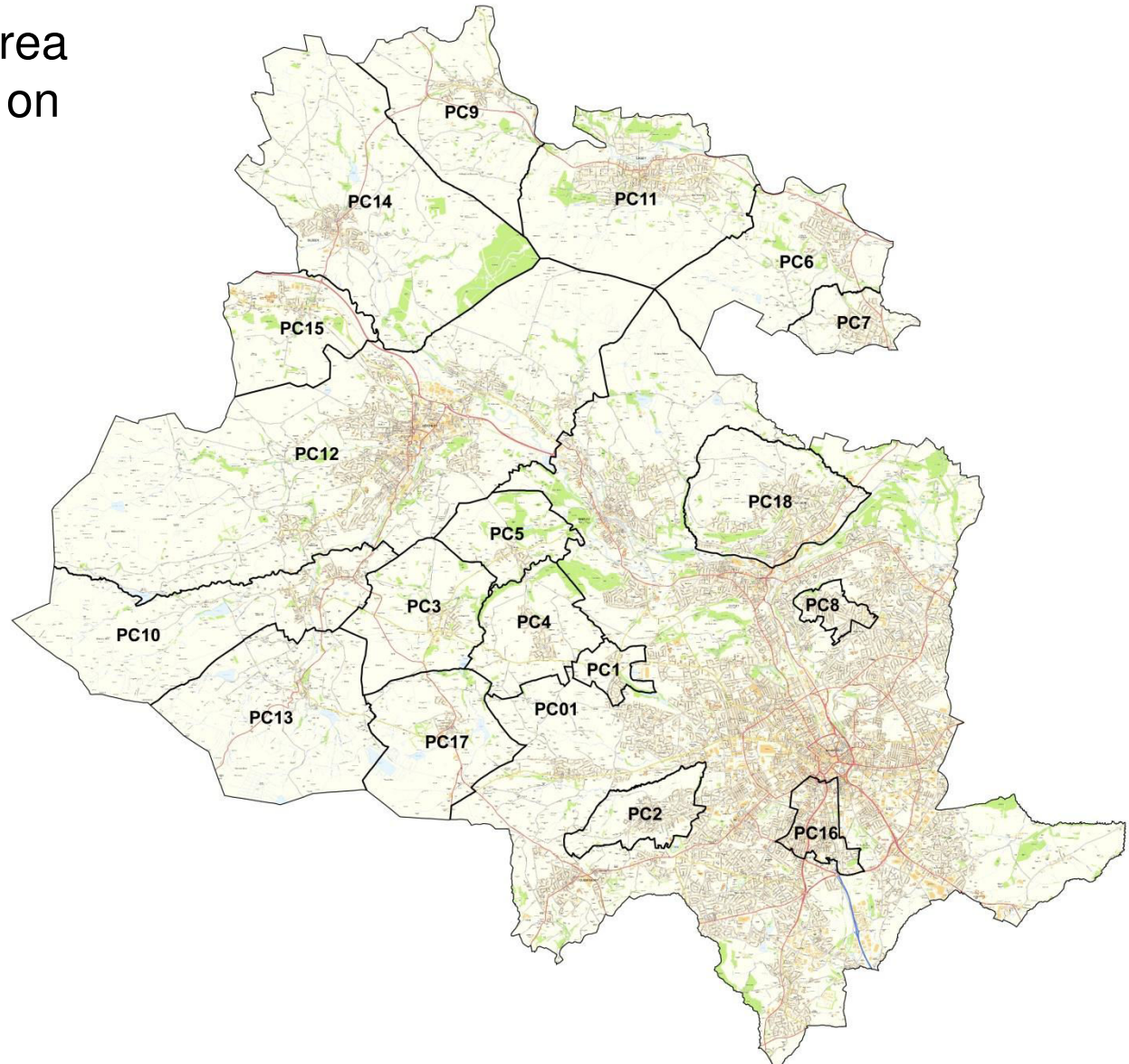
By 2020 a greater share of income will be raised locally in Council Tax & Local Business Rates



Parish councils in Bradford

- 142,000 electors covered by parishes, the largest for any district council in Yorkshire.
 - 41% of the total electorate and 70% of the area.
- 19 local councils of which 7 meet the NALC larger council criteria.
 - In a national context all are relatively large with electorates between 1,400 and 37,000.
- Post 1974 there were only 6 parishes. All others created post 2000.
 - Most are in outer areas but one council, Trident, is in the heart of the inner city.
- Average precept is 36% of national average.
 - Total funds raised by precept is £1.4 million, up by 59% from 2012-13

Bradford has five Area Committees based on parliamentary boundaries. Two of these are wholly or predominantly parished.



The evolution of parishes in Bradford

- The growth in the number of parish councils led to an increased engagement between the tiers from about 2000.
- Until the austerity agenda parishes were viewed primarily as either consultees or lobbyists for services in their area.
- From 2010 some parishes became more interested in becoming service providers.
- Since 1974 virtually all public assets were owned by Bradford Council. Bradford was also responsible for the delivery of virtually all local services.
- A growing self confidence by a number of parishes has coincided with a recognition by Bradford that different service delivery models were needed.

What Next – A New Deal!

- We need to reduce our net expenditure by 1 further £100 million over the next 4 years.
- A new relationship between citizen and state
- A new relationship with partners.
- Better understanding of needs and expectations

The Localism Act

Sustainable Community Empowerment

Definition

Community Asset Transfer (CAT)

The transfer of land or buildings into the stewardship of third sector organisations by lease

Criteria

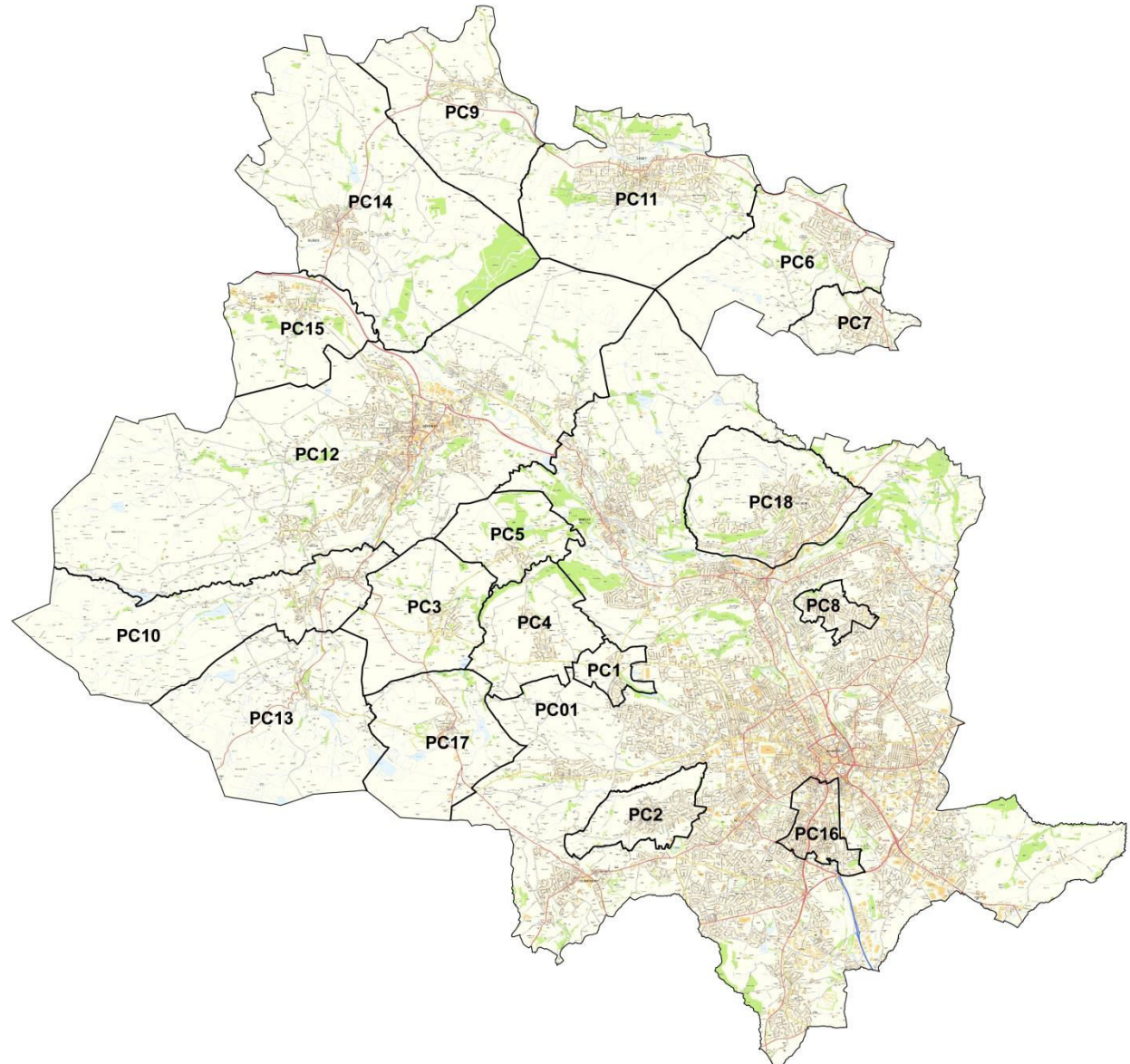
- Benefits - social, economic or environmental to diverse range of local people
- Demand
- Business case –showing a sustainable model
- Strong Governance
- Capacity – people with the right skill set
- Contribute to the corporate objectives
- Not duplicate or affect existing services or facilities

Initial focus upon pilot areas

- Burley & Wilsden effectively selected themselves
 - Both are relatively large villages with an older and more affluent population than the district average
 - Both had aspirations for a higher level of service than Bradford was able to deliver currently
- Will the devolution model to parishes in metropolitan districts such as Bradford develop in a similar way to some of the larger local councils who have delivered high levels of local services since 1974?
- What are the implications of the Northern Powerhouse devolution agenda from central to local government?

Burley – PC6
Population – 7,340
Precept income
£46,544
Band D precept
£15.88

Wilsden – PC4
Population – 4,810
Precept income
£40,828
Band D precept
£24.13



Burley Parish Council



- Building focus
- Disposal can generate capital receipt for reinvestment
- Includes property, community facilities and public open space.

Wilsden Parish Council

- We have provided hanging baskets and managed a small grassed area, acquired through planning gain, since 2010 using sub-contractors
 - Volunteers, supported by the parish council, have managed the flower beds during 2016



Wilsden Parish Council

- Main focus upon public open space
 - Assets in Wilsden, owned by Bradford, are not income generating and there is no potential to generate capital by asset disposal.
 - Although the parish is willing to use precept funding to support service delivery some financial support is required in order to sustain the service delivery without double taxation



Wilsden Parish Council

- Management strategy
 - Councillors in conjunction with representatives of community groups will provide detailed direction to the management of green spaces in the village
 - Most routine work will be handled through sub-contractors
 - Aim is to minimise employment of additional staff and capital investment
 - Some additional training required e.g. play area routine safety checks
 - Contract value would be small enough to encourage participation by local companies to encourage community pride and buy-in

Issues for Bradford

- Lack of experience and expertise
- Single Points of Failure
- Major unforeseen costs
- Loss of political control/influence
- What if
- Possible TUPE impact
- Capacity to meet demand generated

Issues for parishes

- Not all parishes are equally keen on expanding their role
 - Most employ only a Parish Clerk
 - In order to deliver local services the job description of the Clerk may need to change fundamentally. Not all are equally keen
- Main focus is upon service delivery based upon operational expenses rather than capital
 - OK to acquire land & buildings not equipment?
 - Do we employ staff or sub-contract?
- Double taxation implications for both tiers
 - Transparency of fund allocation and equity of funding between neighbouring villages

Opportunities

- Lowest level of subsidiarity
- Local control and 'ownership' putting decisions closest to those affected
- Maintains outcomes supporting vulnerable people
- Reduce costs e.g. travel to district extremities, local labour force
- Focus on the new core business